

SALES

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U.S.D.A. "Choice" • Tender
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59¢ 79¢ 98¢
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CORNED BEEF 59¢
BONELESS BRISKET EXTRA LEAN

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Mumps Can Be Serious Illness For Adults, Mild for Children

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D.,
County Health Officer

Mumps is a disease primarily associated with childhood. It is a relatively mild disorder when it occurs in the younger age group, and often looks much worse than it is. Although mumps is regarded as something of little consequence by many parents, the complications that it may cause are most serious.

The disease is moderately contagious and may occur at any time during the year. It is spread by infective agents (the mumps virus) which are present in the saliva of an infected person and these are discharged into the air by talking, coughing, and sneezing. The disease may also be transmitted by particles soiled with the patient's nasal and mouth discharges.

Mumps after early adolescence is gonadal infection (inflammation of the sex glands) which may result in sterility. This may occur in both sexes, but is noted more frequently in the male. Teenagers are especially vulnerable.

Involvement of the central nervous system is a complication that may occur at any age. Meningitis is the most frequently encountered form of CNS involvement, while encephalitis also occurs in some cases. In either illness following an attack of mumps, the outlook for recovery is good.

THERE IS a fairly accurate skin test which determines whether or not a person has had mumps. If an individual without immunity is exposed to the disease, and wishes to avoid an attack, there is an antimumps serum which, especially if administered the first week following exposure, develops an effective passive

MOST CASES of mumps occur in children between the ages of 5 and 15 and, when properly cared for, are of little consequence during that period. The disease is seldom seen during infancy and is relatively uncommon in adult life. Pain under the ear is generally the first symptom of mumps and occurs about three weeks after exposure to the infection. This is followed by fever and swelling of one or more glands in the neck and throat. One side only is affected at first but is usually followed by the other in a couple of days.

The individual is infectious to about 2 or 3 days before the glands begin to swell and remains so until they return to normal size. In uncomplicated cases, the visible swelling may subside in a week, or a little more.

APPROXIMATELY 40 percent of all cases of mumps are so mild, according to medical reports, that no glandular swelling is evident. The virus is carried in the secretions, however, and may be the cause of infection in other individuals. These so-called inapparent infections, of which the person may be unaware, generally confer a life-long immunity just as do the more severe attacks.

The most serious and most characteristic complication of

immunity. Although the protection is temporary, the dose may be repeated at one or two week intervals as long as exposure continues.

A vaccine is also available that provides immunity for a much longer period than the serum, and this is often given to adults who have been exposed to mumps. Although prevention of the disease cannot be assured, reasonably good protection appears in from two to three weeks. Since the incubation period of mumps is relatively long there is a fair chance to avoid an attack. At any rate, there is clinical evidence that the vaccine may help to make an attack of mumps milder even when it fails to prevent.

WHETHER A CHILD or an adult should receive this protection, and whether it should be provided by serum or vaccine, is a matter which the family physician must determine from the circumstance of each case. Because of the serious and permanent nature of adult complications, many physicians make no attempt to prevent children from having the disease figuring, no doubt, that it is best to get it over with when the chances of permanent damage are the least.

Individuals who get mumps may look comical, but there is nothing amusing about the complications that can so easily follow. Whenever mumps is suspected, a lot of trouble may be avoided by getting in prompt touch with the family doctor.

Scientists in Session

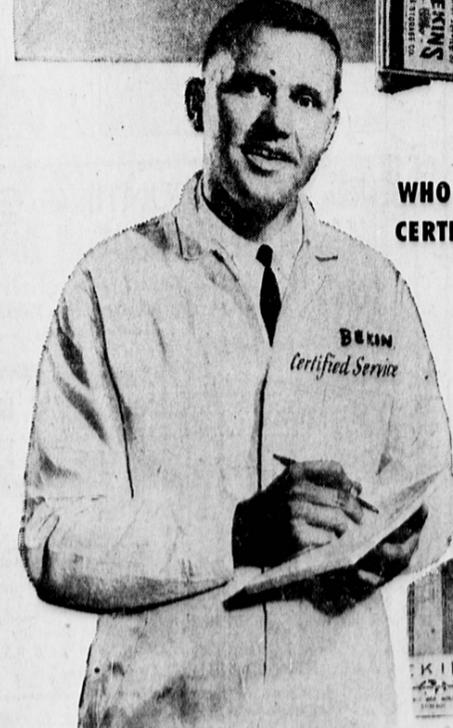
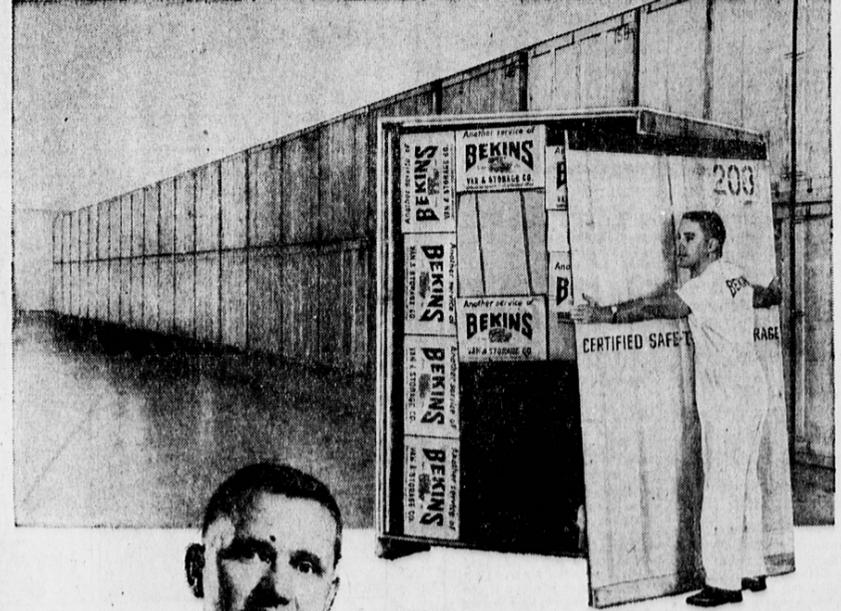
Arne Mars and John Czarnacki of Vickers, Inc., are participating in the 11th annual fall X-Ray Diffraction School conducted by the X-Ray department of the General Electric Co. in Milwaukee.

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